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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/768,574	01/25/2001	Masafumi Aikawa	018656-197	3581

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EXAMINER

ZHOU, TING

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2173	

DATE MAILED: 08/05/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/768,574

Applicant(s)

AIKAWA, MASAFUMI

Examiner

Ting Zhou

Art Unit

2173

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM

THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

4) Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 25 January 2001 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) ____.

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: ____

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because reference characters "10", "12", "14" and "16" have all been used to designate client computer.

2. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because reference character "65" has been used to designate "general" tab, "detail" tab, "Setup" tab, "Advanced" tab, "Finishing" tab, "Graphics" tab and "Font" tab.

3. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because reference characters "81", "91", "101", "105" and "111" have all been used to designate the setting result list.

4. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because reference characters "82", "92", "102" and "106" have all been used to designate label fields.

5. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because reference characters "83" and "103" have both been used to designate data fields.

6. Applicant is required to submit a proposed drawing correction of the above noted deficiencies (preferably in red ink) in reply to this Office action. However, formal correction of

the noted defect may be deferred until after the examiner has considered the proposed drawing correction. Failure to timely submit the proposed drawing correction will result in the abandonment of the application.

Specification

7. The abstract is objected to because it is merely a recitation of the claims. It should be based on the disclosure as a whole and should be amended to include proper grammatical sentences.

8. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

a. The sentence on line 15 of page 3 is unclear. The phrase “solutions to” should be inserted between the words “provide” and “the”. The sentence should read, “An object of the present invention is to provide solutions to the above-mentioned problems.”

b. The paragraph starting on line 25 of page 5 and continuing onto line 5 of page 6 is redundant. The information conveyed in this paragraph has just been mentioned in the Brief Description of the Drawings section.

Appropriate corrections are required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

9. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

10. Claims 1, 2, 6 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by Okatani et al. U.S. Patent 6,075,519.

Referring to claim 1, Okatani et al. disclose a plurality of entry screens in Figure 3. In column 14, they teach first display means for displaying entry screens (mode setting screen) on lines 42-43 and setting means for setting an operation condition on lines 36-39. They further disclose a list screen displaying the set operation condition in column 9, lines 52-54 and second display means for displaying the entry screen shown by the first display and the list screen in column 14, lines 30-34.

Referring to claim 2, Okatani et al. disclose a display (see Figure 4), setting means for setting operation conditions (column 14, lines 42-43) and first and second control means for displaying an entry screen and a list screen (column 12, lines 1-10).

Referring to claim 6, in Column 10, Okatani et al. teach an operation condition setter (mode setting apparatus) comprising of selection means for selecting one group from among a plurality of groups (lines 62-64), first generation and display means for displaying the entry screens (lines 42-46), second generation and display means for displaying the mode list screens (lines 55-61) and setting means for setting a value for the item selected from the entry screen (lines 34-37). They further disclose first and second display controllers for displaying the entry screens and mode list screens (column 11, lines 19-42).

Referring to claim 11, Okatani et al. disclose the operation condition setter comprising of selection means for selecting one of the results from the list (column 10, lines 62-64), a switch device for switching between entry screens (column 13, lines 46-52) and first display control means for displaying the entry screen (column 14, lines 15-16).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

11. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

12. Claims 3-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lane et al. U.S. Patent 4,843,538 in view of Okatani et al.

The Lane et al. reference discloses a method and program for computer control of machine processes, which involve menu-driven approaches to the selection of processes. Lane et al. also teach an interface program that is capable of defining the parameters used by a process. As defined in claim 1 of Lane et al., the disclosed method includes the display of a plurality of menu screens, and the definition and selection of operating parameters. Although the reference teaches the above limitations, it does not explicitly state the ability to display a list of all the set operation conditions. Okatani et al. teach the display of all modes currently set (see lines 23-24 on page 3). Since Lane et al. disclosed in claim 9, the method and program stores a set of the defined parameter values, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to display this stored set of values. It would have been advantageous for one to combine these teachings to allow the users to view all machine operation conditions that have been set and to easily change these settings.

In the above rejection, it is assumed that the “process control interface” mentioned in the Lane et al. reference refers to the “computer program product” recited in claim 5, since by definition, an interface is a type of computer program. The examiner takes Official Notice of this teaching.

13. Claim 7, 9, 10 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okatani et al. as applied to claim 6 above, and further in view of Nakazato et al. U.S Patent 5,762,329. Referring to claim 7, while Okatani et al. teach all the limitations described in claim 6, they fail to show detection and inhibition means for values at which the operation condition setter cannot operate. Nakazato et al. teach a processing apparatus similar to that of Okatani et

al. In addition, Nakazato et al. disclose detection of differently punched sheets stored in the tray and prohibition means that prohibits the stapling operation on these conditions (see lines 27-37 on page 5). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Okatani et al. and Nakazato et al. before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the operation condition setter taught by Okatani et al. to include the detection and prohibition means of Nakazato et al. in order to obtain an apparatus that is capable of detecting operating conditions that can not be completed and preventing those operations from being performed. One would have been motivated to make such a combination because an operation condition setter capable of displaying entry screens and mode list screens and inhibiting invalid operating conditions would have been obtained, as taught by Okatani et al. and Nakazato et al.

With reference to claim 9, while Okatani et al. teach all the limitations described in claim 6, they fail to show the settable values included in the mode setting list, as recited in the claim. Nakazato et al. teach a sheet processing apparatus similar to the one disclosed in the claims. In addition, they teach punching operations based on settable values for the punching mode, i.e. whether it is a two-punch mode or three-punch mode operation (see lines 10-14 on page 3). It would then have been obvious to one of ordinary skills in the art to modify the mode setting apparatus of Okatani et al. to include the settable values taught by Nakazato et al. One would make such a combination to show the user allowable values for the setting parameters.

With reference to claim 10, while Okatani et al. teach all the limitations of claim 6, they fail to show the operation condition setter being able to identify and distinguish the settings based on the set values, as recited in the claim. Nakazato et al. teach the performance of stapling or punching functions based on the details set by the preset conditions (see lines 10-21 on page

2). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having both of these teachings before him at the time the invention was made to combine their features. It would have been advantageous for one to utilize such a combination in order for the users to view the setting results that were decided based on the input parameter values.

With reference to claim 12, while Okatani et al. teach the limitations of claim 6, they fail to specify operating conditions associated with printing and post-printing functions, as recited in the claim. Nakazato et al. teach a sheet processing apparatus similar to the one disclosed in the claims. In addition, they teach the apparatus capable of performing post processing functions such as stapling and punching, appended to an image forming main unit such a printer or copier (see lines 25-37 on page 2). It would then have been obvious to specify the image processing apparatus of Okatani et al. to particularly associate with printing and post printing operations.

14. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okatani et al. as applied to claim 6 above, and further in view of Puolakanaho et al. U.S. Patent 6,418,394. While Okatani et al. teach all the limitations described in claim 6, they fail to show the generation of setting results by use of symbols. Puolakanaho et al. teach a user interface method for making and displaying selections similar to Okatani et al. In addition, they further teach means to display operating modes with the display in the form of numbers, letter and various symbols (see lines 51-54 on page 2). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Okatani et al. and Puolakanaho et al. before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the operation condition setter taught by Okatani et al. to include the use of symbols for display purposes, to allow easy detection of setting parameters. One would have been motivated

to make such a combination because an operation condition setter that displays the list of setting results by use of symbols such as letters, numbers and icons would have been obtained, as suggested by the Okatani et al. and Puolakanaho et al. references.

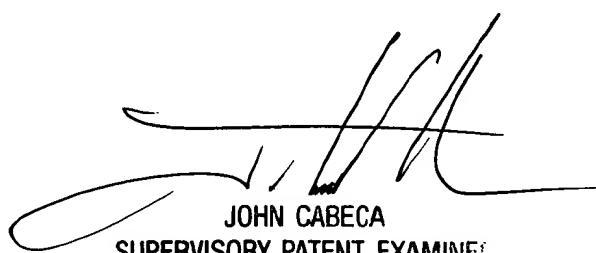
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ting Zhou whose telephone number is (703) 305-0328. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:00am - 4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cabeca can be reached on 703) 308-3116. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 305-9731 for regular communications and (703) 305-9731 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

TZ
July 21, 2003



JOHN CABECA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINEE
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